

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00
NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-07
OMB-01 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /054 W
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R 101025Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3091

INFO DEA HQS WASHDC

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 12751

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TH, SN

SUBJ: PRESS CRITICISM OF WOLFF PROPOSAL

1. THE JUNE 9 ISSUE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AFTERNOON DAILY BANGKOK WORLD CARRIED AN ARTICLE BY DENNIS BLOODWORTH WHICH PRAISES THE RTG NARCOTICS EFFORT AND CRITICISES PROPOSALS BY CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF FOR "PRE-EMPTIVE BUYING" OF ILLICIT OPIUM. BLOODWORTH ALSO CRITICIZED WOLFF FOR HIS PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THE NAMES OF IMPORTANT THAI TRAFFICKERS.

2. BLOODWORTH'S MAIN THEME IS THE APPARENT INCREASE IN COMMUNIST INVOLVEMENT IN THE DRUG TRADE, MOST NOTABLY IN BURMA, BUT ALSO ALONG THE THAI/MALAYSIAN BORDER. HE NOTES THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN MAKING A STRONG EFFORT OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS TO "STAMP HARD ON DRUG TRAFFIC" NEAR THE SOURCE, WHILE OTHER EFFORTS ARE MADE IN THE COUNTRIES OF ASIA, EUROPE, AND THE U.S. HE STATES THAT WHILE THERE IS A BUMPER CROP THIS YEAR IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE, THE SYNDICATES ARE LYING LOW, "AND THE PRICE OF OPIUM HAS FALLEN BY HALF".

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3. "NEVERTHELESS" BLOODWORTH CONTINUES, "THE AMBITIOUS PROPOSAL OF U.S. CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF FOR PRE-EMPTING THE MARKET BY BUYING UP THE ENTIRE HARVEST COULD STILL REBOUND AGAINST THE FORCES FOR GOOD. FOR THE NET EFFECT WOULD BE TO UNDERPIN THE SOURCE OF INCOME ON WHICH ARMED INSURGENTS IN BURMA - WHETHER PRO-PEKING COMMUNISTS OR CHINESE NATIONALIST REMNANTS OR SHAN

AND KACHIN HILLMEN - DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY RUN THEIR REBELLIONS.

4. "AND WOLFF MUST AVOID A REPUTATION FOR KICKING INTO HIS OWN GOAL. BECAUSE THE FINAL IRONY IS THAT IN THE OPINION OF DISGUSTED THAI NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION OFFICERS, THIS TENACIOUS ENEMY OF THE WHOLE APPALLING COMMERCE EFFECTIVELY SABOTAGED THEIR OPERATION AGAINST TRAFFICKERS ON MAY 17, WHEN HE PUBLICLY DISCLOSED THE NAMES OF 12 SUSPECTED DOPE-RING BOSSES IN THAILAND, SO THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD 'KNOW THEIR ENEMY.'

5. "THE IMMEDIATE CONSEQUENCE IS THAT THE INVESTIGATORS ACTUALLY ENGAGING THAT ENEMY WILL NOT KNOW HIM ANY MORE, ONE OFFICIAL IN BANGKOK POINTED OUT BITTERLY. THE TWELVE WILL HAVE PROMPTLY FLED THE COUNTRY, THEY WILL BE REPLACED BY UNIDENTIFIED FACES, AND THE ENTIRE CAMPAIGN HAS THEREFORE BEEN PUT BACK TO SQUARE ONE."
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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